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SAWMILL INDUSTRY CENTRALIZED

The November exhibition in Prague has shown that whereas the Czechoslovak forests produced 14 million cubic meters of wood in 1919, only 11 million cubic meters of wood can be produced at present because of excessive deforestation.

Forestry, therefore, must be based on conservation and rationalization. The sawmills must be adapted to the new productive conditions and must comply with the considerable requirements of further production.

Such a task fell to the Ceske a Moravskoslezske Pily (Bohemian and Moravian-Silesian Sawmills) state enterprise. It was given very worn-out, antiquated production apparatus consisting of 2,200 mostly small, manual-type sawmills. They were modestly equipped and had a low production capacity. It was therefore necessary to set up an organization which could meet the new requirements. Larger savmills, which are to operate most economically and at full capacity, are being built by concentrating the machine installations of the small manual-type mills, as far as they can still be used.

The new organization of sawmilling is being established in harmony with the kraj organization. It will be based on 13 kraj base factories, around which about 400 smaller mills are being established in accordance with local conditions and requirements. The base factories are the following: Stredoceske Pily in Satalice, Sumavske Pily in Pisek, Chodske Pily in Pilsen, Zapadoceske Pily in Dalovice, Krusnohorske Pily in Osek near Duchcov, Jizerske Pily in Jablonne v Podjestedi, Krkonosske Pily in Horni Stare Mesto, Vychodoceske Pily in Ceska Trebova, Jesenicke Pily in Sumperk, Slezske Pily in Fulnek, Valassko Pily in Valasske Mezirici, Stredomoravske Pily in Bucovice, and Horacke Pily in Jihlava.

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Sawmills which have lost their raw material basis are being gradually liquidated. Surplus labor is being transferred to more important industries. The following numbers of sawmills are being liquidated in the individual kraj: Prague 67, Ceske Budejovice 66, Hradec Kralove 55, Jiblava 88, Pilsen 43, Karlovy Vary 18, Usti nad Labem 26, Liberec 35, Pardubice 43, Ostrava 70, Brno 123, Olemouc 78, Gottwaldov 112.

In total, 824 sawmills will be liquidated. Thus, prerequisites are obtained for placing manual production on a modern industrial foundation. Larger mills, which will thereby appear, will be able gradually to develop into real lumber combines, capable of processing the raw material by modern methods into not only semifinished goods but also into finished products.

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